

Absecon Presbyterian Church

PRESBY BITS AND PIECES

Sunday, April 7, 2024

JOHN 20:24-29

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'



CHOIR SINGERS

If you would like to be part of our new Choir, please see Rick DeKarski after the church service.

USHERS AND LAY ASSISTANTS

If you are interested in being an usher, please see Mary Bew.

If you are interested in being a Lay Assistant, please see Janet Gee.

**SERVING
THIS MORNING:**

LAY ASSISTANT:
JoAnn Sabo

USHERS:
Rita and Vic Abelson

**ATTENDANCE
LAST WEEK:**
Worship – 71
Sunday School - 7

SUNDAY WORSHIP
at 10:30 In Person or Online
on APC Facebook page at
[www.facebook.com/
abseconpresby](http://www.facebook.com/abseconpresby)

REV. JUDY FIOCCO

SERMON TITLE:
“See My Hands“

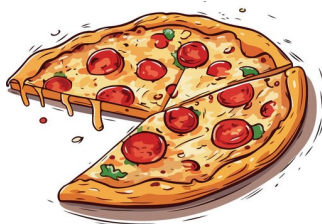
John 20:19-31

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am with Rita Abelson
Wednesday evening Bible Study will resume in mid April.

Details to follow.



PIZZA AND PARABLES PLAYING AND PRAYING

YOUTH GROUP

Friday, April 12, 2024 at 6:00-9:00pm

Led by Pastor Judy

All Middle and High School aged youth are welcome!

Meet us in the Church Sanctuary at 6:00pm

Let us know if you have special dietary needs (e.g. Can't eat cheese, gluten, tomato sauce).

Pizza toppings will be decided when we get together.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 9:15-10:15am in Cobb Lounge

Led by Pastor Judy's husband Larry Jones and Elder Gwen Monhollen

The first Biblical text they will study is the small but important epistle "Philemon".

LIFELINE SCREENING

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

One day community health screening event

PRAYER LIST

Please see the Bulletin for the Prayer list.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The Prayer Shawl Group meets the first Saturday of every month at 9:30am in Madden Hall.
All are invited who enjoy knitting or crocheting or who would like to learn.

COFFEE MINGLE

Please join us!

All are welcome to gather in Madden Hall
following Sunday worship.

Brought to you by your Church Family
and Fellowship Committee.

Help is needed with set up, clean up, and providing baked goods, cookies, etc.

If you are able to assist in any way, please sign up
on the clipboard in the vestibule.



Sunday, March 24, 2024

General

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$566.37
Envelopes Designated	\$902.00
Initial Offering - 2024	\$1.00
Per Capita - 2024	\$38.00
Energy	
Easter Offerings	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - Energy	
General Total	<hr/> \$1,507.37

Benevolence

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$65.10
Envelopes Designated	\$30.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$75.00
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - One Great Hour of Sharing	
Mission Bouquet - Easter	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Benevolence Total	<hr/> \$170.10

Capital Expenditures

Envelopes Undesignated (includes Loose Offerings)	\$19.53
Envelopes Designated	\$215.00
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
Online - Undesignated	
Online - Designated	
On-line Fund Raiser	
Capital Total	<hr/> \$234.53
Combined Total	<hr/> \$1,912.00 <hr/>

Word Search Puzzle

From WhenWeWordSearch.com

Words in a straight line left to right or top to bottom

April 7, 2024

JOHN 20:24-29



Words in the puzzle are printed in **bold italics**

But ***Thomas*** (who was ***called*** the ***Twin***), one of the ***twelve***, was not with them when ***Jesus*** came. So the other ***disciples*** ***told*** him, 'We have seen the ***Lord***.' But he said to them, '***Unless*** I see the ***mark*** of the ***nails*** in his ***hands***, and put my ***finger*** in the mark of the nails and my ***hand*** in his ***side***, I will not ***believe***.' A ***week*** later his disciples were ***again*** in the ***house***, and Thomas was with them. ***Although*** the ***doors*** were ***shut***, Jesus came and ***stood*** among ***them*** and said, '***Peace*** be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, '***Put*** your finger ***here*** and see my hands. ***Reach*** out your hand and put it in my side. Do not ***doubt*** but believe.' Thomas ***answered*** him, 'My Lord and my ***God!***' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed ***because*** you have ***seen*** me? ***Blessed*** are those who have not seen and yet have ***come*** to believe.'

Grateful We Serve A Living God

By Lisa Whitaker

This past trip was filled with some unexpected twists and turns as well as tragedy. The plan was for me to go to a country in Central Asia for two weeks to both help with a training conference and then teach a workshop on staffing our Discipleship Training Schools. As I was making my plans and getting ready to submit my papers to obtain a visa for this country, I was contacted by my friend who was going to co-lead the workshop week. She had applied for a visa and it was denied. I was taken aback by this news because it never occurred to me that she wouldn't receive her visa. The implication was that I was now leading this workshop week by myself with over 70 participants. It was a battle for me to obtain my visa as well - I ended up arriving to the country just in time to do the week of the workshop. Thankfully, the friends where I was teaching the week before were very kind in letting me stay there while I waited.

The staff that I was able to share with during the workshop are simply precious. They do not get a lot of outside training as most of them have never been out of their country. They were so grateful to me and must have thanked me one hundred times for coming. I was struck by a conversation I had with one young lady - she is in her early 20's, She comes from a very non-Christian part of her country and has faced interrogation many times. She told me that the secret police had contacted her right before our workshop and asked her to come to the police station. She told them she was traveling and they said, fine, come in when you return. I asked her what she was going to do? She said, "I'll go in, my Dad will go with me". She said it so matter of factly. I then said, "And what will you say to them?" She said, "I'll tell them, I will speak about Jesus and you can do to me whatever you want, but I'm not stopping." I asked, "What will they do?" She shrugged and said, "Hopefully nothing, they are trying to scare me, but I will not back down". I was so moved by her fiery spirit and determination to share the gospel in very challenging and threatening circumstances.

Some of you may have heard about a terrible bus accident that occurred last month in Tanzania, Africa. Eleven of our Youth With a Mission missionaries were killed and eight more injured. It was a sobering reminder of how quickly things can change and how fleeting this life truly is.

As we celebrate Easter this year, I am challenged by both these stories - my new friend who is bravely standing up to the secret police and my fellow YWAM missionaries who lost their lives while serving in Africa. Jesus understands both of these scenarios. He was falsely accused and He gave his life for us. It is a much needed reminder that we serve a God who understands the challenges of life on this earth. He not only understands but he lived in and through the challenges and in the end overcame death.

During Lent and Easter, I am inspired as I listen to music that proclaims the truth of who Jesus is and what He did for us. Songs like, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow . . .", or I Know My Redeemer Lives . . . and many more.

Praying that you all had a meaningful Holy Week and Easter celebration. Please remember in these times to pray for those who sacrificially celebrate Easter and those who will be celebrating this Easter with an empty chair at the table. (Both in our own community and in

places around the world).

I am so grateful that our faith leads us to HOPE and we know that no matter what happens on earth, we will rule and reign with Jesus in the New Heavens and the New Earth. Life is truly worth the living because He LIVES !

As always, thank you for your prayers and ongoing support!

Lisa

Lisa's April/May Schedule 2024

April 4-20 - India - Staff retreat and Staff training

April 21-25 - Louisville , Ky - teach in School of Ministry Development

April 25- May 13 - Home in Absecon

May 13 - 18 -Fly to Central Asia- Central Asian staff gathering

May 19-24 -Wiler, Switzerland - Teach in DTS

May 25-29 - I may stay in Switzerland with a friend or go early to my next place

May 29-June 8 - Middle East- Telios Discipleship Course

EASTER IN PAKISTAN

Below are pictures from our mission in Pakistan on Easter.

The money our church sends is so very important. It is used to feed the very poor and hungry in a rural area.

They are grateful for our generosity and help.





OLGA DAVIES

Olga's eyesight is failing.

If you would like to call or visit,

her new address is:

Meadowview Nursing Home Room #182A

Northfield, NJ 08225

609-645-5595

MARGE LOEB

If anyone would like to send Marge a card, her new address is:

Marge Loeb, Floral Creek Room 25A

600 Township Line Road, Yardley, PA 19067

DON CRONBERGER

If anyone would like to send Don a card, his new address is:

Don Cronberger, c/o Spring Home at Galloway Room D9,

Galloway, NJ 08205

***ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL AGED YOUTH
ARE WELCOME!***

*Pizza & Parables &
Playing & Praying*

Meet us in the Church Sanctuary at 6pm

Let us know if you have special dietary needs.
(e.g. can't eat cheese, gluten, tomato sauce)

Toppings will be decided when we get together.

Friday evening, April 12th from 6 to 9 PM.

Sister Jean's Food & Clothing Pantry

Believe it or not, the otherwise helpful government program SNAP, does not cover these essentials!?!

There is a big demand for dish soap and toilet paper and other cleaning products. They need the sizes for home use, not bulk containers as these are for individuals. Even just grabbing a few items at a dollar store will help. Don't forget dish cloths and sponges... you know, the essentials.





Please help
replenish our
homemade soups
and breads for
our shut-in
members.

— — — — —
| LABEL your soups and breads and |
| please, DO NOT use nuts in your |
| receipes as many people have an |
| allergy to them. |
| Please put DATE on label. |
— — — — —

Peanut Butter and Jam Sandwiches Ministry



Urgent need for jam!



We need volunteers to make sandwiches!

We need donations of peanut butter and/or jam!

Just leave the jars in the kitchen with a note saying it's for PB&J Ministry.

We need donations to purchase fresh bread!

Questions?

Please see or call Betty Price at 609 457-5155.

Your gifts and/or time will be very much appreciated!

How fortunate the Church is to have Betty Price and Jo-ann Weller who meet every other Thursday at 8 a.m., in the Church kitchen and make peanut butter and jam sandwiches for the Rescue Mission in Atlantic City. Maybe you could give them a helping hand.

Be assured, the Rescue Mission patrons appreciate everything that they receive.



APRIL IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

About 18 million adults have an alcohol use disorder (AUD), a condition that applies to people who have strong cravings for alcohol, can't control their drinking, show withdrawal symptoms if they stop drinking, and continue to drink despite health or other alcohol-related problems. AUD can range from mild to severe, and can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, profession, or financial status.

Unfortunately the stigma that still surrounds alcohol use may prevent people from getting the help they need. Stigma refers to the negative thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs about people or groups based on characteristics that set them apart from others, such as mental health conditions including AUD. Stigma can cause people to downplay how often they drink, how much they drink, and the impact drinking has on their life.

Identify your drinking habits Excessive alcohol use includes binge drinking and heavy drinking.

- Binge drinking = 5+ drinks for men and 4+ drinks for women within a 2-hour period.
- Heavy drinking = 14+ drinks for men and 7+ drinks for women within a week.

Understand the dangers of alcohol Excessive alcohol use increases a person's risk of stroke, liver cirrhosis, alcoholic hepatitis, cancer, and other serious health conditions. It leads to risk-taking behavior, such as driving while impaired and unprotected sex. Alcohol also increases the risk of death from car crashes, injuries, homicide, and suicide.

If you think you may have a problem It is important to overcome stigma, be honest about your drinking habits, and seek support from a health care provider. Online screening tools are available to help you understand if you are at risk, visit: www.cdc.gov/alcoholCheckYourDrinking

Resources for More Information

- * **Atlantic County Office of Addiction Services**
609-645-5932
- * **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)**
800-604-HELP
- * **Al Anon 888-944-5678** nj-al-anon.org
- * **Reach NJ (844) 732-2465**
nj.gov/humanservices/reachnj
- * **Rethinking Drinking**
rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov

Help Reduce Stigma

- Avoid negative labels
- Listen without judging
- Treat people with respect
- Be supportive
- Speak up when others use stigmatizing language
- Be kind
- Help educate others
- Share your story

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
PROUD TO BE
STIGMA - FREE**

Words to Avoid

- Alcoholic, Addict, Junkie
- Drug Habit
- Abuse
- Clean/Dirty
- User
- Recovering Addict

Words to Use

- Person with Alcohol Use Disorder
- Substance use disorder
- Misuse or harmful use
- Actively/not actively drinking/using
- Person in risky use or misuse
- Person in active recovery





Beloved, this week marks the 2nd week of the Easter Season. The Resurrection is so amazing and so central to our faith that we need 50 days to take it all in! Below is information I shared with you last week, (yes, a rerun!) but these exciting events are coming closer: this Friday and next Sunday, so don't miss out if they are good news for you and those you love!

On Friday, April 12th, from 6 to 9PM, I, assisted by Tina Harvey, will lead a Youth Group at the church, beginning with prayer and get-to-know each other activities in the sanctuary. We will then move to other areas of the church, eat pizza, study the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and have more fun activities. We hope this will be the first of many youth gatherings! This will be for Middle and High School aged youth, all of whom are welcome! No registration required!

Then, beginning on Sunday, April 14th from 9:15 to 10:15 AM and continuing each week into the foreseeable future, my husband Larry Jones and Elder Gwen Monholland will be leading an adult Bible Study in the Cobb Lounge. The first Biblical text they will study is the small but important epistle "Philemon". Future books or letters from the Bible will be determined based on the interest of the members of the class. Come, enjoy fellowship and explore and engage Scripture with these two wonderful leaders!

Later in April we also hope to begin having Friday game nights. Stay tuned for more details! If any of these activities appeal to you, or if you'd like to talk to me about other interests, please let me know. Remember, I still want to meet with as many of you as want to meet with me. To meet, email, call the office or text me. If the need is an **urgent*** one, (*see last week's pastor's page) you can call me on my cell phone. (510) 548-8125. pastorapc@comcast.net.

Lovingly,
your Pastor, *Judy*